



Darebin Energy Foundation Interim Advisory Board Terms of Reference and Selection Information

Background

Darebin City Council recognises that we are in a climate emergency. Council aspires to be a national leader in response to this critical intergenerational issue. In December 2016 Council resolved to establish a working group to develop proposals for a Darebin Energy Foundation and in February 2017 endorsed the establishment of the Foundation for the purposes outlined below.

Purpose

The purpose of the Darebin Energy Foundation (DEF or 'the Foundation') is to accelerate sustained and meaningful action with the community (residents, businesses, education and other organisations) to reduce Darebin's greenhouse emissions and embed community resilience to climate change. The Foundation will have a strong focus on our most vulnerable and socio-economically disadvantaged communities. The Foundation will work with Council, community groups, other governments, authorities, private sector and other organisations to achieve its aims.

The Foundation will:

- Facilitate a Darebin climate think tank to develop local zero emissions and resilience proposals and solutions
- Harness and encourage community participation and investment (volunteering and donation)
- Develop and/or contribute to programs that educate and mobilise the community on the above issues
- Develop and/or trial innovative programs and delivery mechanisms which can be scaled up to achieve significant change
- Advocate to governments and industry to increase climate change action and funding for community and local government action
- Advocate to State and Federal government regarding policies and issues that support the purpose of the foundation
- Work to ensure there are sustainable long term funding and resourcing commitments from Council to drive down emissions and embed climate resilience in our community, with a strong focus on our most vulnerable communities
- Work with Council to deliver identified actions of the Climate Action Plan including, but not limited to, community-owned renewable energy projects
- Devise and apply for other sources of funding (grants, fee for service etc.) that improve effectiveness and financial sustainability of foundation.

DEF will complement and enhance Council's work on climate change and will not double up on Council's climate emergency action.

Transition and Development

In 2017 an interim advisory board is being formed to set up a community climate think-tank and to determine the most effective long term governance model for the Foundation. The interim advisory board's proposal will be presented to Council for consideration by February 2018 to inform the 2018/19 Council budget process. This will include resourcing and targets and may affect changes in membership and representation.

Representation and Membership

There will be nine community members, the Mayor and a Councillor representative from each of the three Council wards on the interim advisory board.

Community members will be selected based on expertise and experience in:

- climate change mitigation and adaptation
- community engagement/mobilisation
- fund sourcing
- advocacy.

Diverse representation from across Darebin is being sought.

In the first year a membership committee formed from the four Councillor representatives and two officers will determine community member appointment based on these criteria.

Council Officers will attend meetings of the interim advisory board and provide advice as required.

The Mayor or a delegated Councillor representative will act as Chair. If no Councillor is present at a meeting a Council officer will act as Chair. (There is an intent to transition to an independent chair in the long term model.)

The Councillor Chair is the official spokesperson for the interim advisory board of the Foundation. Interim advisory board members may speak on behalf of the group where the content and spokesperson is agreed by a quorum at an interim advisory board meeting.

Quorum

For decisions where a vote is required, at least seven representatives including two Councillor representatives must be present. If this is not the case the decision will be postponed until the next meeting. If this is not possible a vote via email/mail may be pursued.

Resourcing

The foundation formation and actions will be funded by Darebin City Council's operational budget in 2017/2018 and the first year of the foundation will determine sustainable resourcing and working models for the foundation. This will include discussions with other organisations and local governments to ensure that an optimum long term model is developed for the foundation.

Meetings and Reporting

The interim advisory board will meet at least three times by the end of 2017.

A report will be provided to Council by February 2018 on the proposed long term model for the Foundation, this will determine future membership terms and appointment.